

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telecast of Regional Programmes

3593. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to increase the time for telecast of regional programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Post Office in Uttar Pradesh

3594. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas of land acquired for the construction of postal office buildings in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether the acquired land is being used for other purposes; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The area of land acquired for the construction of post office buildings during the last 3 years district-wise in Uttar Pradesh are as follows :

Sl. No.	Place	Distt.	Area	Year
1.	Wadda	Pithoragarh	1200 m ²	1994
2.	Suhagnagar	Firojabad	850 m ²	1994
3.	Bageshwar	Almora	586.43 m ²	1995
4.	Tetari Bazar	Siddarthnagar	7967.84 m ²	1996
5.	Sirauli Gaushpur	Barabanki	1554.72 m ²	1996
6.	Ram Nagar	Barabanki	1554.72 m ²	1996

(b) No.

(c) Not applicable.

Extraction of Iron Ore Mines in Madhya Pradesh

3595. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of iron ore extracted each month from iron ore mines of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the royalty provided to Madhya Pradesh on iron ore during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase royalty on iron ore to State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As per Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Nagpur, the quantity of iron ore extracted each month, during 1996-97 from iron ore mines of Madhya Pradesh is given at Statement-I.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The royalty rates on iron ore have been recently revised and notified in the Gazette of India, notification *vide* Part II, Section 3, Sub Section (i) No. 156, dated 11.4.97. The rates of royalty in respect of iron ore as per the Gazette of India, dated 11.4.97 are at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Iron Ore Production in Madhya Pradesh during April-1996 to March 1997 (Month-wise)

Month	(Qty. in thousand tonnes)		
	Production		
	Total	Lumps	Fines ¹
April 1996	1489	807	682
May	1395	764	631
June	1393	789	604
July	1220	658	562
August	1364	690	674
September	1299	664	635
October	1571	796	775
November	1393	769	624
December	1452	824	628
January 1997	1382	818	564
February	1305	712	593
March	1545	773	772
Total 1996-97	16808	9064	7744

¹ Figures relate to despatches for internal consumption/exports.

Statement-II

Rates of Royalty in respect of Iron Ore as per the Gazette of India dt. 11.4.97

Iron Ore	Rates (Rs./Tonnes)
1. Lumps	
(a) 65% Fe or more	21.50
(b) 62% Fe or more but less than 65% Fe	12.00
(c) 60% Fe or more but less than 62% Fe	08.50
(d) Less than 60% Fe	06.00
2. Fines (including inter-alia, natural fines produced incidental to mining and sizing of lumpy ore)	
(a) 65% Fe or more	15.50
(b) 62% Fe or more but less than 65% Fe	08.50
(c) Less than 62% Fe	06.00
3. Concentrates prepared by beneficiation and/or concentrating of low grade Ore containing 40% Fe or less	02.50

[English]

Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project

3596. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether once the Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project of NEEPCO is commissioned water would be discharged or diverted to Dikrong river;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the danger of vast thickly populated areas of Lakhimpur and Sonitpur districts being seriously affected by floods and erosion; and

(c) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government to prevent the man-made calamity resulting inevitably from the said diversion of water to Dikrong river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The Hydro Electric Project is being implemented by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) in Arunachal Pradesh with generation capacity of 405 MW. The project envisages inter-basin transfer of water from Ranganadi river to Dikrong river due to discharge of 160 cumecs of tail-race water from the power house when operated at its full capacity. Model studies conducted by Central

Water and Power Research Station, Pune, at the instance of NEEPCO, has revealed that the rise in water level will be between 7-12 cm when power house operates at its full capacity. The effect of the rise in the water due to additional discharge from the power station is very marginal in comparison to the observed peak flood of 2500 CUMECS of the river Dikrong. The incremental discharge of 160 CUMECS is therefore not likely to cause any damage in the lower reach of Dikrong river not will pose any danger to the population in the area. NEEPCO has carried out a joint survey with the Flood Control Department and Irrigation Department of Government of Assam to assess the flood protection work of Dikrong river from the downstream of Banderdewa bridge upto the confluence of river Dikrong and Subansiri. Based on the actual survey, the flood protection work as existing without transfer of 160 CUMECS of water from Ranganadi Basin to Dikrong Basin is not sufficient to retain the observed 2500 CUMECS discharge of Dikrong River during the peak flood season. NEEPCO has, however, intimated to Government of Assam that any additional protection measures, if required due to additional discharge of 160 CUMECS of water from power House will be fully funded by them against the project cost.

[Translation]

Non-Delivery of Letters

3597. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the total distribution system has come to such a pass in Darbhanga, Bihar that even the registered letters are not reaching their destination, what to talk of ordinary letters;

(b) if so, whether any complaints have been received about the registered letters and ordinary letters not reaching their destination under the present postal distribution system in Darbhanga; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) No, Sir, the distribution of mails in Darbhanga is generally satisfactory. However, occasional instances of delay to mails may occur due to various reasons such as cancellation/late running of mail carrying buses, trains and planes, natural calamities, sudden and exceptional increase in the volume of mail like Corporate and Greetings mail, inadequacy of delivery staff etc.

(b) There are complaints about non-delivery/delayed delivery of registered and ordinary mail. However, such complaints are negligible compared to the volume of mail handled.

(c) The complaints received are enquired into and appropriate action is taken against the officials at fault.